



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 31, 2020
9:30 AM

OPEN & AFFIRMING WELCOME STATEMENT

First Congregational Church of Akron unconditionally affirms all people as we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ and his teaching of inclusive love.

We welcome people of every race, age, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family circumstance, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, or spiritual background.

We invite all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to participate fully in our church life, ministry, and leadership.

We strive to be a safe place, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds can heal, differences are cherished, and inclusivity is intentional.

We commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, in order to foster a world of peace and wholeness.

God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace and celebrate you.

WELCOME

CENTERING REFLECTION & PRAYER

TIME OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Perpetual Praise

**Your many blessings are new each morning and with each dawning we sing your praise!
From early morning to restful evening our grateful hearts sing praises!**

Your love and mercy, shining bright, bring hope and joy as we follow in your Light.

You breathe within us.

You sing within us.

You move our hearts to perpetual praise!

Through all of our days.

Perpetual praise! *Repeat from beginning*

The Grace of God is Yours

**Reach out your hands, accept the gift. Reach out your hands, accept the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift, the grace of God is yours.**

**Reach out your hands, receive the gift. Reach out your hands, receive the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift, the grace of God is yours.**

**And it is free, free, free. And it is free, free, free.
And it is free, free, free. The grace of God is yours.**

**Reach out your hands, accept the gift. Reach out your hands, accept the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift, the grace of God is yours.**

**Reach out your hands, and share the gift. Reach out your hands, and share the gift.
Reach out your hands, embrace the gift, the grace of God is yours.**

**And it is free, free, free. And it is free, free, free.
And it is free, free, free. The grace of God is yours. *Repeat refrain***

Spirit, Fill Me

**Spirit come and fill me, fill me with your peace, fill me with your joy and your love.
Spirit come and show me, show me how to care, show me how to share your light.**

**Help me give my hand to those in need. Let my heart be open to receive.
When we share your love, we can work together to heal this broken world. *Repeat all***

TIME OF PRAYER

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

**Lord, listen to your children praying
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace! *Repeat***

MUSIC REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith

by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

MESSAGE: *Given to Each*

SENDING SONGS: *You Have Called Me*

**You have called me from my hiding place and given me a name;
from this moment on my life can never be the same.
I have seen the beckoning vision, though I wanted to remain,
here I am, send me, here I am.**

**You have called me from my wilderness and given me a way.
The many paths I've traveled have but brought me to this day.
And the journey that is calling me no longer will delay.
Here I am, send me, here I am.**

**You have called me from my silence and given me a word.
I was dying in my coldness till a fire within me stirred.
Now I can keep still no longer, I must speak what I have heard.
Here I am, send me, here I am.**

May the Blessing of God

**May the blessing of God go before you,
May her grace and peace abound.
May her spirit live within you,
May her love wrap you 'round.
May her blessing remain with you always,
May you walk on holy ground.**

BLESSING

NEWS & NOTES

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister
Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister
Music and vocals: Dave Aberth, Kellie Ramirez, Brian Randall, & Mike Vincent
CCLI License #11234842 and CCS License #8399

Support First Church's Ministry. Visit www.akronfcc.org/donate to support the vital and ongoing ministries and missions of this congregation. You are also welcome to mail a donation to 292 East Market Street, Akron OH 44308. Thank you!

Calling All Graduates and Teachers! Next Sunday, June 7, is Graduate and Teacher Recognition Day. We recognize that this school year has been challenging in many ways for our students and teachers and that much has been taken away as a result of COVID-19. As such, First Church wants to recognize and celebrate all the hard work and accomplishments of our graduates and teachers! If your family has a high school or college student graduating this year, or if you are currently serving as a teacher and would like to be recognized, please send an email to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org with the graduate or teacher name and school by Thursday, June 4 at 5pm.

Coming Out Christian. Tonight, May 31, from 6-7pm, members of the LGBTQ+ community can come together online to explore Christianity and the possibility of understanding faith in new ways as we reclaim and explore our faith journeys. Join us as we rethink God's love toward LGBTQ+ Christians! If you would like to join the discussion, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm on the meeting day. You will receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation.

Join Us for Week 4 of Our Weekly Challenge! Starting Sunday, May 31, we challenge families to create a family art project that represents each person in your family. Some ideas for this project include a collage, a painting, or a simple drawing-- whatever represents your family the most! If you would like to share your creations with the church, please email a picture of them to Pastor Antigone at antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org no later than Sunday, June 7.

To Infinity and Beyond! Bible Study. Join Pastor Nanette for the second part of a study of the Acts of the Apostles describing the spread of the Christian faith to the gentiles beyond Jerusalem and Samaria. We'll meet on Wednesdays in June from 7-8:15pm online. In the first week, we'll focus on chapters 9-12:25. Advance reading is suggested but not required. To attend, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm on the meeting day. You will receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation.

Online Bible Study for Men* You are warmly invited to join Rev. Steven Savides online for an exploration of the scriptures on Saturday, June 6, from 8-9am. Participants are encouraged to have a bible with them (any translation) and to be prepared to journey through scripture with thought-provoking conversation. Please RSVP to kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 4pm on June 5. **The designation "men" is meant to create a space in which all who identify as male or who embrace a masculine identity can feel welcome and find fellowship.*

South Street Ministries is the May Mission of the Month. South Street Ministries upholds its mission of "unlikely partners taking shared risks to renew our community for Christ's sake" through youth programs, recovery services and the Front Porch Café. Programs include programs for youth, Faithful Servants Urgent Care Center and South Street Recovery Services. Funds raised from Mission of the Month will be used for summer youth programs including, RICH Kids and Bike Shop, to empower these programs to minister to youth more regularly. If you like to make a contribution, please make your check out the First Congregational Church of Akron with "South Street Ministries" in the memo line or donate online at www.akronfcc.org/donate

Give securely to First Church on our website! Go to www.akronfcc.org/donate to make a donation or to set up a recurring donation. We have a secure website to manage our online transactions, so you do not need to worry about electronic giving! If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Janis Worley at janis.worley@akronfcc.org You are also welcome to mail a donation to 292 East Market Street, Akron OH 44308. Thank you!

Church Chat! Fellowship Online. Are you missing Coffee Hour after church? Missing the chance to see and catch up with other members and friends? Join our pastors and others from church online for fellowship on Tuesday, June 9, and Thursday, June 25, from 8:30-9:30am, RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm the day before and you'll receive a Zoom link in your email to join the conversation. We look forward to seeing you online with coffee in hand!

Time with Tots Zoom Breakfast. Join Pastor Antigone on Saturday, June 13, from 8-9:30am for a time of connection and fellowship. As we work towards and anticipate gathering again in person, we hope that this virtual opportunity for families with toddler age children proves to be just as valuable and fun! To RSVP, please send an email to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by Friday, June 12 at 4pm. We look forward to seeing each of you bright and early with coffee in hand!

Youth Night "What's in the Box?" Game on Zoom! Join Pastor Antigone on Friday, June 19, from 6pm-7:30pm for another Zoom game night! This month, we will try our hands at playing a fun game called, "What's in the Box?" In this game, each person will choose the weirdest or most random object they can think of, keeping it out of sight in a box while each person takes turns trying to guess

what the object is. The person who guesses right the most times will win a fun surprise! To join the fun, RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by Thursday, June 18 at 5pm.

Pastoral Care and our Care Team. Our pastors are here to support and speak with members remotely. Our staff members are also on hand to assist with administrative needs. Please feel free to reach out. Our Care Team is actively reaching out to our homebound and senior members extending care and comfort during this time.

Midweek Time of Reflection. Join our pastors each Wednesday at noon for a livestream time of prayer and inspiring readings and ideas at www.akronfcc.org/live or on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron. If you miss them live, you can always find the posts on Facebook and on our website blog afterwards to watch at your leisure.

Feeding Hope Food Pantry. In keeping with our Food Justice vision priority and to provide a source of healthy food in this difficult time for families in need, the pantry remains open as scheduled on Tuesday mornings from 9:30am-11:30am and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm. Operating with a skeleton crew of volunteers, the process for distribution is vastly different from usual. Patrons are asked to stay in their vehicles if they drive or to stand outside in a line, 6 feet apart, if they arrive on foot. We encourage your continued support of this vital ministry. However, in light of the shelter in place order, we can only accept monetary donations (no donated items at this time), please visit www.akronfcc.org/donate to offer whatever you are able. Donations in any amount are appreciated.

Summer Camp Applications. We are still accepting applications for scholarships for children and youth to attend summer camp. Please download an application at www.akronfcc.org/summer-camp-scholarships or contact Associate Minister Antigone at antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org.

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

We offer daily prayers of thanksgiving for all who are struggling in body, mind, or spirit each day. We pray especially for all those around the world who are affected by the coronavirus; those who are sick and those who care for them, those who work tirelessly to provide treatment and vaccine. We give thanks for our public officials and leaders, those who staff hospitals and work in grocery stores, for first responders and emergency service providers. Within our community we pray for Chris, Marilyn, Margaret, Jessica, Lola, Barbara, Carole, George, Madeline, Betty, Wanda, Art, and Doug.

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www.akronfcc.org

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